PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: The security problem has been in existence for quite some time. It did not just come before 1989 or after 1991.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Are you taking care of it?

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE; What loopholes have been detected by the Government itself without the help of the Commission or may be by an earlier Commission?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, whatever lapses or shortcomings the Government fnds, certainly we try to apply correctives. But I won't be in a position to tell him about it nor is it necessary for me to give all the details to the House because they are very secret matters. The person to whom the security is being provided, if the details are divulged, then, it loses all the Significance,

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE; Can he seek protection under sucb a plea?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No, 122.

भारत में बने टेलीफोन संयंत्रों का अमरीका सरकार द्वारा खरीदा जाना

*122. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :†

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका सरकार ने हाल ही में भारत में बने कुछ टेलीफोन संयंत्रों को खरीदने का प्रस्ताव रखा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे संयंत्रों की कुल संख्या कितनी है और वे कितने मूल्य पर खरीदे जायेंगे ;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस मांग को पूरा करने की स्थिति में है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस मांग के कब तक पूरा किये जाने की संभावना है और इस सौदे में कितना मुनाफा कमाने की संभावना है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, before I put my first supplementary. I would like to point out a mistake done by the Translation Department of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. My question was in Hindi and the words used for my original language was "संयंत्र" .But when the translation was done it was put as "plants". Before I put my question to the hon. Minister, I would like to be reassured by him that he has not taken advantage of this mistake done by the Secretariat while answering the question because the answer that is provided protects him. If he reads the translation...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a correction in the English version.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: *Mf* first question was "Whether it is a fact that the U.S. Government have recently offered to purchase some telephone plant* manufactured in India;". He says "No, Sir." So I just want an assurance from him that he understood my question correctly. Then, I would put my question to hint.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Whatever question has been put to the Department, die Information is available with me and I can give it to the hon. Member. If he wants to put any supplementary, I an ready to clarify it.

MR. CHAIRMAN; He says his question is about the telephone instrumeata. Have you answered about the telephone hairs

† The question was actually asked on the flour of the Hours by Mr. Samar Jain.

ments ? There was a news item in the papers that you are proposing to sell some telephone instruments. That is why, I think, he has put the question.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: What is the basic answer ? Is it the same for plant and instruments ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't confuse. please.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Let me put my question, Sir. Here, today, on the floor of this House, the hon. Minister says, "No, Sir", to my question whether the U.S. has recently offered to purchase telephone instruments from this country. But, in a press note which is published in the 'Times of India' on July 14—and the source is his Ministry—it is said, "U.S. to buy Indian phones". It says lhat it is for the first time that the U.S. is trying to buy a large number of phones and at a rate of 16 dollars each. It says it is a big order. My first question is this. The same Ministry tells different things to the press and Parliament. Why?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We depend on what he says in Parliament.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, the press and Parliament are two important instruments of the functioning of Indian democracy. The same Government hiforms the press and Parliament. It has to have not only responsibility but consistency also. Within a period of. one month, the information supplied to the press and Parliament is so different. On one side. you go to the people and paint such a nice picture. *(Interruption).*

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, unless he sits down, how can the Minister reply ?

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Yoa always keep interrupting me and if I start interrupting you, you will run away from this House.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: He will never run away. Don't worry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will not run away. He is a permanent featnro of our House. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN; He old. Ho cannot run away.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRA(JADHAV: He has been there for the la; 24 years. How can he run away?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Chairmat Sir, I gather from the hon. Member's que! tion that he feels that we have said some thing outside in the press that the U.! is buying telephones or telephone insrn ments from us, but in answer to the que: tion here, we are saying, "No, Sir". i am afraid there is some sort of communic: tion gap between me and the hon. Men ber. I really do not know which sectic of the press he is quoting. I remembi that I have spoken to the pres3 that are trying to increase exports from department and we have constituted cell *(Interruption).*

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, he is suppl ing some information to the hon. Min: ter.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Thank you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Does contain the answer that he wants ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, is tl paper laid on the Table or in the Min ter's hands ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in the pre

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Is the pap laid on the Table ? Have you permitt him ? Or. is it in the hands of the Min ter? Sir, you have reply *(Interruption*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, this is soi article in some newspaper where the have said, "Sources close to the Uni Ministry of Telecommunications". hon. Member can help me in regard the sources. Anyway, the intention is 1 same. I want to convey that we have be trying to raise whatever little requiremi we have for foreign exchange in our < partment. We had a Rs. 140 core fore- exchange requirement for a compone Our expansion could not take off speed because of the shortage of foreign change. *So,* when I took over, I tall to the press. I have said that we wil!

ta export, at least to the extent ot that quantity, our instruments or whatever re quirements foreign countries have so that we can meet the foerign exchange require ment of our department. That was the sole aim . The question is not about the Government. Some tele-phone instruments have been ordered for by one of the firms in the U.S. It is also said that 6000 telephones have been ordered for by one private company of America from one of the private companies in India. In any case, in totality, we get for'tgn exchange. So we are trying to increase our exports. We have already constituted a separate cell in our Ministry so that exlorts can be enhanced and the requirem tnt for foreign exhcange com-ponents, in respect of communication es-pecially, can be met. That is the total thrust of the department, for earning foreign exchange.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I make it clear? *(Interrupttons),* Just a minute. His explanation is that there is no order from the U.S. Government. In the U.S., telecommunication is in private hands. They may have ordered. I don't know. That is the question.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: They have placed order for 6,000 telephones with a private firm. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: So the matter ends there. He has,, cleared the confusion. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I can give tie'Harne of the firm. The name of th* Indian firm is Bharati Telecom Ltd. and the name of the American firm is Premia Telephones. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the two have been reconciled.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, when I had asked this question, my ex-petcation was not that the hon. Minister would lead the House to a confusion. *(Intamtptiorts).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. But you put the word 'Government', *(Interruption*).*

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, my supplementary is, does the Govemment agree that there lies an export potential m the Telecom sector equipment? If the Government thinks that there is export potential of the telephone instruments being manufactured in India either by the public sector or by the private sector, what steps the Government is taking to develop this potential? Does the Government agree that the century-old Indian Telegraph Act is providing a major deterrent to create conditions which will help integrating our nation with the inter-national market? So there is a century-old Indian Telegraph Act but today's technology has cerated an altogether different situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So your question is, will he amend this Act so that the telephone equipment could be sold ?

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: If he says yes, there is a potential, then he has to come to the root of the problem and has to come to the House with an amendment of the century-old Indian Telegraph Act. Is he doing something about it?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a fact that the scope of enhancing our export specially in the telecom sector in the Middle East and some of the East European countries is very good. We are having a very encouraging response and sensing that response, we have already tried to establish a cell, specially on commercial lines, not on bureaucratic lines that we send a team and they meet the officers and come back. We want to establish a commercial set-up in the Ministry which can boost up our exports in this department. The second par' of the hon. Member's question is very right and this was the first thrust after the new Government started functioning. We have realised that this is a very old Act and we have already set up a Committee. We are on the process *to* review it and amend it, not clause-by-clause but in total. We will take care of the overall view of the Act. It has been a very old Act and if the progressive attitude has to be brought in the Communications Department, (hen i! is Meded today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are trying to do that ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Yes. we ara trying to do it.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Since there is an ugency in ihq sphere of balance of payments crisis and everything, we you willing to specify sometime within which you will bring an amendment *to* the Apt?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, there are two ways of doing it. Anything which is immediately needed for the progress of the department or in the interest of nation, we can bring an amendment to that parti-culai clause. But if you want to review the whole Act, then it will take some time. There is a Committee set up so that it is amended not for the next twa or three years but for the next thirty-forty years so that we do not have to review it every five years or ten years. So it is a snort term as well as long term planning. If the hon. Member has got anything in mind for a particular clause he is most welcome to write to me and I will take action on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajni Ranjan) Sahu.

Do you want to put question on Qnei-ties No. 123 ?

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU*:* Ter,

S.T.D. facilites to Delhi

*123. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Wll the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleated to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to! provide STD P.C.O. facilities in Tilak: Nagar, Model Town and ether places fa Delhi where such facilities are not avafla-

(b) whether it Is a fact that a largo number of PCOs in Delhi an always faulty;

(e) ff so, what steps are taken ty Govenment fo mitigate the grievances of the police;

(d) whether Government, have taken any steps for speedy disposal of telephone com-plaints, which are inordinately delayed by the Telephone Department; and

(e) whether Government hivs any pro-gramme to replace the manual exchanges in rural area by Auto/Computerised exchanges ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Sir, 8 STD PCOs in Tilak Nagar and 2 STD PCOs in Model Town area are already functioning. In Delhi 516 STD PCOs are working as on date. These PCOs cover almost all important areas and localities in Delhi.

(b) and (c) Most of the PCOs in Delhi are normally operational. A few PCOs become inoperative some time due to vandalism, cable thefts and o:her reasons. All the PCOs are treated as important telephones and tested daily from the exchange. They are also inspected physically from time to time.

(d) Fault Repair Service is being pro-gressively computerised io ensure better follow up of the complaints/faults. External aM internal plants are also doing modernised to reduce the incidesce complaints.

(e) Yes, Sr. All the manual exchanges are planned to be replaced by aoAMnaM exchanges by 1995.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRA!! : Sir, first of ail, I seek your protectfon. There is no "Ramcandran" In the House, I think. I am Ramachandran. And who sabotaged this, I don't know.

MR. CHAIRMAN They have changed it. An errata has been issued.

SHU S. K. T. RAMACHNMatA*: Anyhow, I condone the error, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your nano in rected now.